
Subject: updated SED

From: Jerry Hearn [<mailto:hearnbo@redshift.com>]

Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2013 1:48 PM

To: commentletters

Subject: updated SED

Dear Chair Felicia Marcus and State Water Board,

I am a retired school teacher who has been actively engaged as a volunteer in watershed policy and restoration at the local level for over a quarter of a century. During that time it has become clear to me that the most important element in any effort to protect and restore our fragile riparian ecosystems and maintain their vital ecosystem services is ensuring that there are adequate flows to support the flora and fauna. As we move into an uncertain future due to climate change, assuring these flows will make the difference between the survival or disappearance of these areas and their associated resources. This would be a tragedy of enormous proportions for both us humans who depend upon those resources and the creatures and plants that make up those systems.

I realize that there are competing interests involved when setting flow rates, and they need to be listened to. However, we humans enjoy a great advantage over other species in that we can readily alter our behaviors as the situations deem necessary. For example, farmers can alter their crop selections to use water in the most efficient manner. Urban users can make use of modern technology to utilize recycled water of the highest quality as well as reducing their allotments through thoughtful water pricing and conservation. Focusing our efforts in these directions, rather than adhering to old frameworks for water allotment, would go a long way towards reducing demands on the one vital element that riparian species cannot live without.

With this in mind, I strongly encourage you to set the bar high for sustaining unimpaired flows, with the minimum being 50% of the annual flows. This action will go a long way towards insuring the future health of our state riparian systems and, as a result, of our human economy and society that is closely linked to them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and for considering my request.

Sincerely,
Jerry Hearn